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REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 29 Jan. 1954

SUBJECT Living Conditions in Warsaw

NO. OF PAGES 5

DATE OF INFORMATION

REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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Benefits

5. [redacted] free medical and dental service although [redacted] pay a fee of 10 per cent on the cost of all medicaments. [redacted] 25X1
6. Other benefits available [redacted] were: a 50% reduction on all railway tickets and a 25% reduction on all airline tickets for travel within Poland.

Expenses

7. The following is a breakdown of approximate monthly expenses during 1953 for one person:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price (in zloty)</u>
Food	600
Clothing and shoes	800
Medical expenses (medicaments)	60
Rent	40
Coal and gas	40
Light, electricity	20
Recreation	150
Books	60
Entertainment and gifts	100
Laundry and cleaning	200
Car maintenance (mostly gasoline)	200
Public transportation	60
Membership fees (trade union, etc.)	50
Miscellaneous	120

Total average monthly expense per person about 2,500

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average expenses for food. For one person daily:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price (in zloty)</u>
Bread, 0.25 kg.	0.75
Milk, 0.5 lit.	0.75
Eggs, 2	3.20
Butter, 100 g.	6.00
Sugar, 70 g.	1.05
Meat, 100 g.	4.00
Seasoned meat, (sausages, ham, etc.) 50 g.	2.00
Potatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ kg.	1.00
Fruit, 50 g.	2.50
Coffee or tea, (about 200 g. monthly)	2.50
Total daily expense for food per person - about	23.75 (sometimes less)

10. Prices of Food and Consumer Goods and Their Availability, July 1953

In some cases only the availability of the item is indicated. Those items marked with one asterisk were not always obtainable in the shops; those marked with two were difficult to obtain. Those marked with three asterisks could not be obtained.

<u>Foodstuffs</u>	<u>Approximate Cost (in zloty)</u>
Black bread, kg.	3.00
Milk, lit.	2.50 to 3.00
Eggs, each	1.60
Butter, kg.	40.00 to 60.00
*Meat and poultry	
**Fresh salmon or carp, kg.	
**Fish, second grade	
*Sausages, kg.	25.00 to 50.00
Potatoes, kg.	2.00 to 4.00
Flour, kg.	7.50
*Rice	
*White beans	
*Apples, kg. (in autumn about 50% cheaper)	20.00 to 60.00
*Oranges, kg.	50.00
*Lemon, each	13.00
*Dried fruit, kg.	

<u>Luxury Foods</u>	<u>Approximate Cost (in zloty)</u>
**Black caviar	
**Smoked salmon	
Vodka, lit.	30.00 to 90.00
Wine, 0.7 lit.	60.00
**Cognac	
**Champagne	
**Milk chocolate, kg.	150.00
*Coffee, ground, kg.	400.00
*Tea, kg.	400.00

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ClothingApproximate Cost (in zloty)

Silk, m.	60.00 to	150.00
Rayon, m.	45.00 to	80.00
Wool, medium grade, m.		900.00
*Cotton, m.	12.00 to	30.00
*Cotton socks, pr.		15.00
Man's wool suit, good quality	3,000.00 to	5,000.00
*Cotton dress	200.00 to	400.00
*Leather shoes, ready-made	400.00 to	600.00
handmade	800.00 to	1,200.00
*Handbag, artificial leather	100.00 to	300.00
*Woman's felt hat		
*Man's felt hat	80.00 to	150.00
Man's shirt, cotton		80.00
poplin		250.00
Handkerchief		10.00
Man's underwear: cotton		15.00
rayon		40.00

Manufactured Products

Man's bicycle (on ticket only by applying to the trade union or place of employment)		1,800.00
*Baby carriage		
***Kitchen utensils (metal pots, pans, etc.)		
Cup and saucer, cheap porcelain		3.00
*Upright piano	5,000.00 to	12,000.00
*Electric refrigerator		3,000.00
Razor blades: Polish production, 5		1.50
Imported, each	5.00 to	8.00

Automobiles

***Small car: new German DKW		16,000.00
second-hand very old of German production	3,000.00 to	10,000.00
***Medium car: New Warszawa (Only for Government agencies)		26,000.00
***Tires: Black market only, Polish production, Stomil, each		3,000.00

MiscellaneousPrices in State-owned Coffee Houses and Restaurants

Cup of coffee		4.00
Pastry, each		2.40
Wine, glass (Bulgarian, Hungarian Rumanian)	7.00 to	12.00
Bottle of beer		1.80
Steak, one serving	8.00 to	16.00
Fried chicken, one serving	18.00 to	25.00
Turkey, one serving	30.00 to	50.00

The restaurants and coffeehouses were usually overcrowded especially in the evenings and on weekends.

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MiscellaneousApproximate Cost (in zloty)

Cigarettes: one package of 20 - Mewa	5.00
- Wczasowe	4.40
Box of matches	0.20
Theater ticket, very good seat	24.00
Movie ticket	4.50
One ton of coal, fuel	300.00 to 350.00
Fares: streetcar	0.45
trolley bus	0.60
bus	0.75
taxi - state-owned cars Warszawa, first km.	4.95
private, very old, prewar cars,	
first km.	4.50
Gasoline, one liter	4.80
Oil (for cars), one liter	8.00
Housemaid, food, lodging, insurance	
monthly plus	300.00 to 400.00
Charwoman, per hour	10.00

11. The shopping situation and the availability of goods improved after January 1953. The state-owned stores were usually filled with goods. It was, however, very difficult to find the proper size, quality, and color. Very often the goods on hand were in odd sizes, or out of season. Household items very often were difficult to find. For example, one could find cups but no saucers. A similar situation existed in regard to clothing. Therefore, the people usually bought whatever was on hand in the stores.

Public Transportation

12. The public transportation facilities in the city of Warsaw, including streetcars, buses, trolley buses, and taxis, were inadequate, especially during rush hours. For this reason in 1949 the municipal authorities set up a schedule which staggered the hours for the various factories, schools, and offices in order to provide better transportation for the employees. The schedule was as follows:

Opening Work HourType of Factory or Office

0600	Factories working in two shifts.
0630	Factories working in one shift.
0730	Universities and institutes.
0800	Schools, workshops, cooperatives, shops, public utility service offices.
0900	Ministeries and other high-level government offices.
0930	Scientific and research institutes.

Despite this arrangement the streetcars were always overcrowded and there were many accidents. A number of people feared they would lose their jobs if they were late because of the stringent regulations regarding work and were forced to take taxis to get to work on time.

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